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PATENT

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In re: application of:

Gary NGAI, et al.

Confirmation No.: 2404

Group Art Unit No.: 2186

Serial No.: 09/872,243

Examiner: THOMAS, Shane M.

Filed on: May 31, 2001

For: DYNAMIC PARTITIONING OF A REUSABLE RESOURCE

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action mailed May 24, 2005, the shortened statutory period for which extends to August 24, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and remarks herein.

- **Amendments to the Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.
- **Remarks** begin on page 19 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

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on July 21, 2005 by Trudy Bagdon
(Date)

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 1. (Canceled).

1 2. (Currently Amended) A method for managing changes in a computer system, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 storing, in a storage space, undo information for removing changes that are being
4 made to data by a plurality of entities, wherein application of the undo
5 information returns the data to which the changes were made to a state of the
6 data that existed prior to the changes, wherein the undo information for each
7 entity of the plurality of entities is stored in a segment of a plurality of
8 segments within said storage space;

9 monitoring usage of the storage space by the entities;

10 wherein each segment of the plurality of segments is a partition of said storage space,

11 and is pre-allocated for storing undo information for entities to which that
12 segment will be assigned;

13 wherein said step of storing undo information includes at least assigning each entity

14 ~~with to~~ a segment for storing the undo information of the entity ~~based on the~~
15 ~~usage~~; and

16 automatically adjusting at least one of the number of segments in the plurality of
17 segments, and the sizes of the plurality of segments based on the usage.

1 3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, further comprising the steps of:
2 establishing a maximum amount of the storage space; and

3 preventing a sum of the sizes of the plurality of segments from exceeding the
4 maximum amount of the storage space.

1 4. (Currently Amended) A method for managing changes in a computer system, the
2 method comprising the steps of:

3 storing, in a storage space, undo information for removing changes that are being
4 made to data by a plurality of entities, wherein application of the undo
5 information returns the data to which the changes were made to a state of the
6 data that existed prior to the changes, wherein the undo information for each
7 entity of the plurality of entities is stored in a segment of a plurality of
8 segments within said storage space;

9 wherein each segment of the plurality of segments is a partition of said storage space,
10 and is pre-allocated for storing undo information for entities to which that
11 segment will be assigned;

12 monitoring usage of the storage space by the entities; and

13 automatically adjusting at least one of the number of segments in the plurality of
14 segments and the sizes of the plurality of segments based on the usage;

15 wherein said step of monitoring usage further includes at least the step of monitoring
16 usage in each period of time for a series of periods of time, and the step of
17 automatically adjusting is based at least on a comparison between a usage of a
18 first period of time and a usage of a second period of time.

1 5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, said step of automatically adjusting the plurality of
2 segments further comprising the steps of:

3 determining whether usage has decreased over a predetermined time based at least in
4 part on the usage in one or more periods of time of the series of periods of
5 time; and
6 if usage has decreased over the predetermined time, then shrinking a sum of the sizes
7 of the plurality of segments.

1 6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, said shrinking including deleting a segment from
2 the plurality of segments.

1 7. (Original) The method of Claim 4, said step of automatically adjusting the plurality of
2 segments further comprising the steps of:

3 determining whether usage has decreased over a predetermined time based at least in
4 part on the usage in one or more periods of time of the series of periods of
5 time; and
6 if usage has decreased over the predetermined time, then
7 determining whether a first amount of storage space allocated to a first
8 segment of the plurality of segments is being used by a first entity
9 storing undo information in the first segment, and
10 if the first amount is not being used by the first entity, then de-allocating the
11 first amount from the first segment.

1 8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, said step of automatically adjusting the plurality of
2 segments further comprising the steps of:

3 determining whether de-allocating the first amount leaves an amount allocated to the
4 first segment that is less than a predetermined minimum amount; and

5 if de-allocating the first amount leaves less than the predetermined minimum amount,
6 then deleting the first segment.

1 9. (Canceled).

1 10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 54, said step of automatically adjusting
2 ~~the plurality of segments~~ further comprising the steps of:
3 determining whether first conditions are satisfied; and
4 if the first conditions are satisfied, forming a new segment to store undo information
5 for a new entity; wherein the first conditions include that at least a first
6 amount of the storage space is not allocated to any segment of the plurality of
7 segments.

1 11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 54, said step of automatically adjusting
2 ~~the plurality of segments~~ further comprising the steps of:
3 determining whether first conditions are satisfied; and
4 if the first conditions are satisfied, forming a new segment to store undo information
5 for a new entity, wherein the first conditions include that every segment of the
6 plurality of segments stores undo information for at least one entity of the
7 plurality of entities.

1 12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, said step of storing undo information
2 further comprising the steps of:
3 determining whether a first segment of the plurality of segments is not storing undo
4 information for the plurality of entities; and

5 if the first segment is not storing the undo information for the plurality of entities,
6 storing undo information for a new entity in the first segment.

1 13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2, said step of automatically adjusting
2 further comprising:

3 determining based on the usage whether a first amount of the storage space allocated
4 to a first segment is not currently used by the plurality of entities; and
5 if the first amount is not currently used, associating a new entity with the first amount
6 of the storage space.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 54, wherein:

2 a first entity of a plurality of entities is associated with a first segment of the plurality
3 of segments; and
4 said step of automatically adjusting ~~the plurality of segments~~ further comprises
5 increasing a size of the first segment in response to a request from the first
6 entity by allocating an additional amount of the storage space to the first
7 segment.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 14, said step of automatically adjusting
2 ~~the plurality of segments~~ further comprising:

3 determining whether sufficient storage space is already allocated to the first segment
4 for storing undo information included in the request from the first entity; and
5 if it is determined that sufficient storage space is not already allocated to the first
6 segment, then performing said step of increasing the size of the first segment.

1 16. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein a sum of the additional amount and the
2 storage space already allocated to the first segment is sufficient for storing the undo
3 information included in the request from the first entity.

1 17. (Original) The method of Claim 15, wherein the additional amount is based on the
2 storage space already allocated to the first segment.

1 18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the additional amount is selected from a
2 plurality of predetermined amounts.

1 19. (Original) The method of Claim 14, said step of allocating the additional amount
2 further comprising:
3 determining whether the additional amount of the storage space is available in storage
4 space not currently allocated to the plurality of segments; and
5 if the additional amount of the storage space is available in storage space not
6 currently allocated to the plurality of segments, then obtaining the additional
7 amount of storage space from the storage space not currently allocated.

1 20. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein:
2 a set of one or more entities of the plurality of entities is alone associated with a
3 second segment of the plurality of segments; and
4 said step of allocating the additional amount further comprises:
5 determining whether the additional amount of the storage space is currently
6 allocated to the second segment of the plurality of segments and is not
7 used by the set of one or more entities; and

8 if the additional amount of the storage space is currently allocated to the
9 second segment and is not used by the set, then obtaining the
10 additional amount of storage space by de-allocating from the second
11 segment the storage space currently allocated to the second segment
12 and not used by the set.

1 21. (Original) The method of Claim 4 said step of monitoring usage in each period of
2 time further comprising the step of monitoring an amount of the undo information stored in
3 each period of time.

1 22. (Original) The method of Claim 4, said step of monitoring usage in each period of
2 time further comprising the step of monitoring a number of entities started in each period of
3 time.

1 23. (Original) The method of Claim 4, said step of monitoring usage in each period of
2 time further comprising the step of monitoring a maximum number of entities executing
3 concurrently in each period of time.

1 24. (Original) The method of Claim 4, said step of monitoring usage in each period of
2 time further comprising the step of monitoring a maximum duration in each period of time
3 among durations of queries terminating during the period of time, said queries using at least
4 some of the undo information stored in the storage space.

1 25. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the additional amount is an extent of
2 contiguous storage space.

1 26. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 54, the step of automatically adjusting the
2 plurality of segments further comprising the steps of:

3 allocating unused amounts of the storage space to the plurality of segments in
4 response to receiving undo information from the plurality of entities; and
5 de-allocating unused amounts of the storage space from the plurality of segments
6 periodically.

1 27. (Original) A method for managing changes in a computer system, the method
2 comprising the steps of:

3 storing, in a storage space, undo information for removing changes that are being
4 made by a plurality of entities, wherein the undo information for each entity of
5 the plurality of entities is stored in a segment of a plurality of segments within
6 said storage space, and a first entity of the plurality of entities is associated
7 with a first segment of the plurality of segments, and a set of one or more
8 entities of the plurality of entities is alone associated with a second segment of
9 the plurality of segments;

10 monitoring usage of the storage space by the entities in each period of time for a
11 series of periods of time; and

12 automatically adjusting at least one of the number of segments in the plurality of
13 segments and the sizes of the plurality of segments based on the usage, said
14 step of automatically adjusting comprising:

15 determining whether usage has decreased over a predetermined time based at

16 least in part on the usage in one or more periods of time of the series of
17 periods of time;

18 if usage has decreased over the predetermined time, then shrinking a sum of
19 the sizes of the plurality of segments;
20 determining whether sufficient storage space is already allocated to the first
21 segment for storing undo information included in a request from the
22 first entity; and
23 if it is determined that sufficient storage space is not already allocated to the
24 first segment, then increasing the size of the first segment by allocating
25 an additional amount of the storage space to the first segment, said
26 step of allocating the additional amount comprising,
27 determining whether the additional amount of the storage
28 space is available in storage space not currently
29 allocated to the plurality of segments, and if the
30 additional amount of the storage space is available in
31 storage space not currently allocated to the plurality of
32 segments, then obtaining the additional amount of
33 storage space from the storage space not currently
34 allocated; and

35 if the additional amount of the storage space is not available in
36 storage space not currently allocated to the plurality of
37 segments, then determining whether the additional
38 amount of the storage space is currently allocated to the
39 second segment of the plurality of segments and is not
40 used by the set of one or more entities, and if the
41 additional amount of the storage space is currently
42 allocated to the second segment and is not used by the
43 set, then obtaining the additional amount of storage
44 space by de-allocating from the second segment the
45 storage space currently allocated to the second segment
46 and not used by the set.

1 Claims 28-53 (Canceled).

1 54. (Currently Amended) A machine implemented method comprising the steps of:
2 storing undo information for removing changes that are being made to data in a
3 storage area that includes a plurality of segments, wherein application of the
4 undo information returns the data to which the changes were made to a state
5 of the data that existed prior to the changes;
6 wherein each segment of the plurality of segments is a partition of said storage area,
7 and is pre-allocated for storing undo information for entities to which that
8 segment will be assigned;
9 using each segment of the plurality of segments as a circular buffer; and

10 automatically adjusting a size of the storage area based on usage of the plurality of
11 segments.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54 wherein the step of automatically
2 adjusting is performed by at least adding a segment to the plurality of segments.

1 56. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the step of automatically
2 adjusting is performed by at least increasing a size of at least one of the plurality of segments.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the step of automatically
2 adjusting includes at least de-allocating storage space in one segment of the plurality of
3 segments, wherein the one segment includes other storage space that is being used by one or
4 more entities.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, further comprising the step of
2 determining that the storage space is no longer being used by the one or the plurality of
3 segments; wherein the step of de-allocating is performed in response to the step of
4 determining.

1 59. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 57, wherein the step of automatically
2 adjusting further includes at least allocating the storage space to another of the plurality of
3 segments.

1 60. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, further comprising assigning one or
2 more entities to a segment based on the usage of the plurality of segments.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54 further comprising collecting
2 statistical information to determine the usage of the plurality of segments.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, further comprising storing
2 information associated with the usage of the plurality of segments.

1 63. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 62, wherein the information associated
2 with the usage is stored in an array.

1 64. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 62, wherein the storing of the
2 information associated with the usage is performed periodically.

1 65. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 54, wherein the plurality of segments
2 includes more than two segments, and the method further comprises the step determining the
3 usage of each the plurality of segments; and assigning an entity to one of the plurality of
4 segments based on the step of determining.

1 66. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 2.

1 67. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 3.

1 68. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 4.

1 69. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 5.

1 70. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 6.

1 71. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 7.

1 72. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 8.

1 73. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 10.

1 74. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 11.

1 75. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 12.

1 76. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 13.

1 77. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 14.

1 78. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 15.

1 79. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 16.

1 80. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 17.

1 81. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 18.

1 82. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 19.

1 83. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 20.

1 84. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 21.

1 85. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 22.

1 86. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 23.

1 87. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 24.

1 88. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 25.

1 89. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 26.

1 90. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 27.

1 91. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 54.

1 92. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 55.

1 93. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 56.

1 94. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 57.

1 95. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 58.

1 96. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 59.

1 97. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 60.

1 98. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 61.

1 99. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 62.

1 100. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 63.

1 101. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 64.

1 102. (Currently Amended) A tangible computer-readable medium carrying one or more
2 sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, causes the one or
3 more processors to perform the method recited in Claim 65.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the allowance of claim 27 and for indicating that claims 8, 17-18, 22-24, 58-59, 65, 72, 80-81, 85-87, 90, 95-96, and 102 contain allowable subject matter.

I. INTERVIEW SUMMARY

A Telephone Interview was held on July 12, 2005 between Examiner Mr. Shane Thomas and Applicants' representatives Brian D. Hickman and Stoycho D. Draganoff. Claim 2 and Ganesh et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,295,610 ("GANESH") were discussed during the interview.

Specifically, the meaning of the term "segment" was discussed in regards to the use of the term in Claim 2 and in GANESH. The general outcome of the Telephone Interview is that an agreement was reached with regards to this term. The Examiner agreed that if in Claim 2 the term "segment" is defined as a partition of storage space that is pre-allocated for storing undo information, Claim 2 would overcome GANESH.

On the same day, July 12, 2005, the Applicants' representative Stoycho D. Draganoff faxed the Examiner proposed amendments to independent Claims 2, 4, and 54. On July 14, 2005, the Applicants' representative Stoycho D. Draganoff telephoned the Examiner to inquire whether the proposed amendments were acceptable, and the Examiner agreed to the proposed amendments to Claims 2, 4, and 54.

II. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claim 27 stands allowed.

Claims 8, 17-18, 20-24, 58, 72, 80-81, 83-87, and 95 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter and would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base independent claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claims 2, 4, 10, 11, 14, 15, 26, 54, and 66-102 are amended. Claims 2, 4, and 54 are revised with the amendments approved by the Examiner Mr. Thomas. Claims 10, 11, 14, 15, and 26 are amended to provide for proper antecedent basis. Claims 66-102 are amended in response to an objection raised in the Office Action. No claims are added or canceled. Hence, claims 2-8, 10-27, and 54-102 are pending.

III. SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIONS/REJECTIONS

Claims 66-102 have been objected to because of an informality.

Claims 2, 4-7, 10-16, 25-26, 54-57, 59-66, 68-71, 73-79, 88-89, 91-94, and 96-102 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly anticipated by GANESH.

Claims 3 and 67 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over GANESH in view of Wahl et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,324,654 ("WAHL").

Claims 3, 19, 67, and 82 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over GANESH.

IV. RESPONSE TO THE OBJECTIONS

Claims 66-102 have been objected to on the grounds that they allegedly cover non-statutory subject matter. The Office Action indicates that these objections would be overcome by the addition of the word "tangible" in front of "computer-readable medium". Claims 66-102 have been thus revised. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to Claims 66-102 have been overcome.

The Applicants have revised Claims 66-102 to include "tangible" in front of "computer-readable medium" for the sole purpose of furthering the prosecution of the present application. By amending Claims 66-102, however, the Applicants do not surrender any subject matter since the Applicants do not admit and do not agree that carrier waves, acoustic/light waves, radio waves and infrared waves constitute non-"tangible" subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the addition of the word "tangible" does not necessarily limit Claims 66-102 as the Office Action believes it would. The addition of the word "tangible" certainly does exclude anything that is non-tangible. However, by virtue of the fact that each of Claims 66-102 recites a medium that is readable by a computer, the medium would already have to be something tangible in order to be detected by a device such as a computer. Medium that is non-tangible is not capable of being detected. The examples given in the Office Action are in fact examples of medium that is sufficiently tangible to be detected and read by a computer, such as, for example, carrier waves, acoustic/light waves, radio waves, and infrared waves. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that all subject matter covered by Claims 66-102 is in fact patentable subject matter.

V. RESPONSE TO THE REJECTIONS

A. INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 2, 4, and 54

Claims 2, 4, and 54 have been revised with the amendments approved by the Examiner Mr. Thomas in accordance with the agreement reached during the Telephone Interview.

For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of Claims 2, 4, and 54 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over GANESH have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 2, 4, and 54 are respectfully requested.

B. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 3, 5-8, 10-26, AND 55-89 and 91-102

Each of Claims 3, 5-8, 10-26, 55-89, and 91-102 is dependent from one of independent Claims 2, 4, and 54, and thus includes each and every feature of the corresponding independent claim. Furthermore, in rejecting Claims 3, 19, 67, and 82 the Office Action relies explicitly on GANESH, and not on WAHL, to support prior disclosure of the features that were discussed during the Telephone Interview. Since GANESH does not disclose these features, any combination of GANESH with WAHL necessarily fails to disclose each and every feature of Claims 3, 5-8, 10-26, 55-89, and 91-102.

Thus, each of Claims 3, 5-8, 10-26, 55-89, and 91-102 is allowable for the reasons discussed above with respect to Claims 2, 4, and 54. In addition, each of Claims 3, 5-8, 10-26, 55-89, and 91-102 introduces one or more additional features that independently render it patentable. For example, the Office Action has indicated that Claims 8, 17-18, 20-24, 58, 72, 80-81, 83-87, and 95 include features that render these claims allowable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case a separate discussion of those features is not included at this time. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 3, 5-8, 10-26, 55-89, and 91-102 are allowable for the reasons given above with respect to Claims 2, 4, and 54.

C. DEPENDENT CLAIM 90

The Office Action has not indicated whether Claim 90 is allowable, and has not rejected the claim either. Claim 90, however, depends on allowed Claim 27 and includes

each and every feature of Claim 27. For this reason, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 90 is patentable, and allowance of the claim is respectfully solicited.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed. Further, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that allowance of all pending claims is appropriate. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

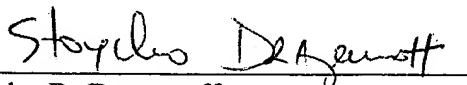
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

A petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firms check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith. If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: July 21, 2005


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